

testimony of a neutral observer may be useful and helpful. At all events the risk is worth running. My great difficulty is that *Qasha* must leave me here to return to Urmi with Mar Gauriel's escort, and that I have no competent man with me in case of difficulty. Mirza not only does not speak Turkish, but has no "backbone," and Johannes, besides having the disadvantage of being an Armenian, is really half a savage, as well as disobedient, bad-tempered, reckless, and quarrelsome. He fought with a Turk at Yekmala, and got me into trouble, and one of his first misdemeanours here was to shoot the church doves, which are regarded as sacred, thereby giving great offence to the Patriarch.

It is most difficult to get away. The Julamerik muleteers are afraid of being robbed on the route. I wish to take, and none of them but a young Kurd will undertake my loads, and though he arrived last night the *zaptiehs* I applied for have failed me. They were to have been here by daylight this morning, and the loads were ready, but nine o'clock came without their appearance.

I wanted to take armed men from Kochanes, but Mar Shimun said that twelve Christians would be no protection against the Kurds, and that I must not go without a Government escort, so things were unpacked. Late this evening, and after another messenger had been sent to Julamerik, one *zaptieh* arrived with a message that they could not spare more, and the people

protest against  
my leaving with such insufficient protection.

Another difficulty is the want of money.  
Owing to  
the " boom " in silver in Persia, and the semi-  
panic which  
prevailed, the utmost efforts of my friends in  
Urmi could  
only obtain £10 for a £20 note, and this only  
in silver  
*mejidiaks*, a Turkish coin worth about 4s.  
As no money  
is current in the villages change cannot be  
procured, and  
on sending to Julamerik for small coins,  
only a very